

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of making a graft connection between first and second portions of a patient's tubular body tissue conduit system comprising:

supplying a length of tubular graft conduit having first and second severed ends;

forming a first aperture in a side wall of the graft conduit adjacent the first severed end;

forming a second aperture in the side wall of the graft conduit adjacent the second severed end;

forming a third aperture in a side wall of the first portion of the body tissue conduit;

forming a fourth aperture in a side wall of the second portion of the body tissue conduit;

approximating the first and third apertures;

installing a first hollow annular connector through the approximated first and third apertures to form a first hollow annular anastomotic connection between the side

walls of the graft conduit and the body tissue conduit
annularly around the approximated first and third apertures;
approximating the second and fourth apertures;
and

installing a second hollow annular connector
through the approximated second and fourth apertures to form a
second hollow annular anastomotic connection between the side
walls of the graft conduit and the body tissue conduit
annularly around the approximated second and fourth apertures,
wherein the installing the first and second hollow annular
connectors comprises deforming at least one of the first and
second connectors so that the at least one connector axially
shortens and presses together the side walls of the graft
conduit and body tissue conduit annularly around the
approximated apertures.

2. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein
the installing a first hollow annular connector comprises:
inserting the first connector into the graft
conduit via the first severed end;

moving the first connector along the interior of the graft conduit from the first severed end to the first aperture; and

extending a first axial portion of the first connector from the first aperture.

3. (Original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the installing the first hollow annular connector further comprises:

inserting the first axial portion of the first connector into the third aperture.

4. (Original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein the installing the first hollow annular connector further comprises:

shielding the first axial portion of the first connector at least during the inserting the first connector into the graft conduit, the moving, the extending, and the inserting the first axial portion into the third aperture; and thereafter unshielding the first axial portion of the first connector.

5. (Original) The method defined in claim 3 wherein the installing the first hollow annular connector further comprises:

deforming the first connector to cause it to press together the side wall of the graft conduit annularly around the first aperture and the side wall of the body tissue conduit annularly around the third aperture.

6. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim [[4]] 5 wherein the deforming the first connector comprises:

annularly enlarging the first connector.

7. (Currently Amended) The method defined in claim 6 wherein the first connector is disposed annularly around a selectively inflatable first balloon during the inserting the first connector into the graft conduit, the moving, the extending, the inserting the first axial portion into the third aperture, the deforming the first connector, and the annularly enlarging, and wherein the annularly enlarging comprises:

inflating the first balloon.

8. (Original) The method defined in claim 7 further comprising:

after the inflating, deflating the first balloon and removing the first balloon from the patient via the first severed end.

9. (Original) The method defined in claim 8 further comprising:

after the removing, closing the graft conduit between the first severed end and the first aperture.

10. (Original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the installing a second hollow annular connector comprises:

inserting the second connector into the graft conduit via the second severed end;

moving the second connector along the interior of the graft conduit from the second end to the second aperture;

extending a first axial portion of the second connector from the second aperture;

inserting the first axial portion of the second connector into the fourth aperture; and

deforming the second connector to cause it to press together the side wall of the graft conduit annularly around the second aperture and the side wall of the body tissue conduit annularly around the fourth aperture.

11. (Original) The method defined in claim 10 wherein the installing the second hollow annular connector further comprises:

shielding the first axial portion of the second connector at least during the inserting the second connector into the graft conduit, the moving the second connector, the extending the first axial portion of the second connector, and the inserting the first axial portion of the second connector; and thereafter unshielding the first axial portion of the second connector.

12. (Original) The method defined in claim 10 wherein the deforming the second connector comprises:

annularly enlarging the second connector.

13. (Original) The method defined in claim 12 wherein the second connector is disposed annularly around a

selectively inflatable second balloon during the inserting the second connector into the graft conduit, the moving the second connector, the extending the first axial portion of the second connector, and the inserting the first axial portion of the second connector, the deforming the second connector, and the annularly enlarging the second connector, and wherein the annularly enlarging the second connector comprises:

inflating the second balloon.

14. (Original) The method defined in claim 13 further comprising:

after the inflating the second balloon, deflating the second balloon and removing the second balloon from the patient via the second severed end.

15. (Original) The method defined in claim 14 further comprising:

after the removing the second balloon, closing the graft conduit between the second severed end and the second aperture.